Oklahoma Chess Monthly

MAY 2020

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

The Chess Searchers

In This Issue:

• Chess Memes and Jokes
• Roy Mendoza Sr.
• RRSO XVIII-SS
• Your COVID Chess Homework
• Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

Nowadays due to the COVID-19 Chinese Coronavirus chess players are online and searching for their chess kicks. Sometimes it seems like a search in the desert, like John Wayne in classic move *The Searchers*.

Still, there is some chess news to offer here this month, plus a bunch of feature articles and 'fun stuff' I hope you will enjoy. We also have some more advice on how to get your chess fix online.

We actually did have a tournament this past month – an online tournament version of the Red River Shootout organized by Jim Hollingsworth which featured a team match between Okie and Texican players. Holding this event allows the RRSO to continue its march toward becoming an official 'Heritage Event' by the USCF, which requires 25 straight years for an event to be held. They are now at 18… We have a full report.

I hope you enjoy with the issue…

"Oklahoma's Official Chess Bulletin Covering Oklahoma Chess on a Regular Schedule Since 1982"

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Asst. Ed. Rebecca Rutledge

Published the 1st of each month.

Send story submissions and tournament reports, etc., by the 15th of the previous month to mailto:tom.braunlich@cox.net

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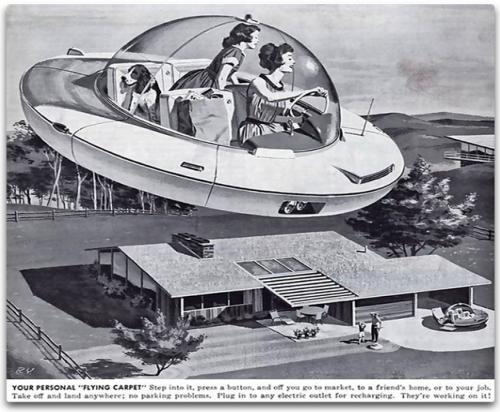
Chess Memes and Jokes for the Pandemic

by Tom Braunlich

> "Sometimes you just have to take the bull by the tail and face the situation."
>
> —Frank Berry

When I was a kid, so long ago, this is what everyone thought the year 2020 would look like:

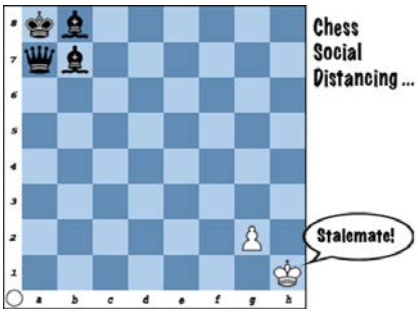

YOUR PERSONAL "FLYING CARPET" Step into it, press a button, and off you go to market, to a friend's home, or to your job. Take off and land anywhere; no parking problems. Plug in to any electric outlet for recharging. They're working on it!

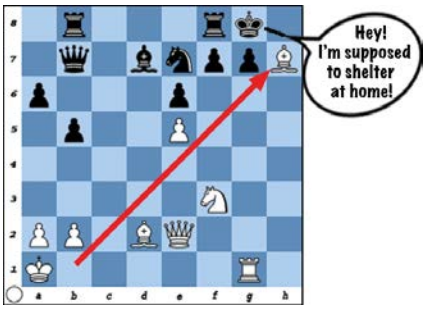
Instead, we chess players got this:

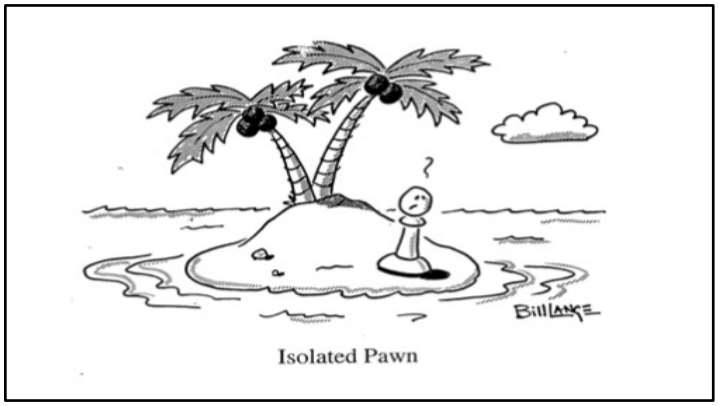
We got *mask protocols*, *social distancing*, and *shelter at home*.

And when it came to the apocalypse, we thought there would be *zombies* and *Mad Max biker gangs*. Instead we got *Zoom*, and a *shortage of toilet paper*.

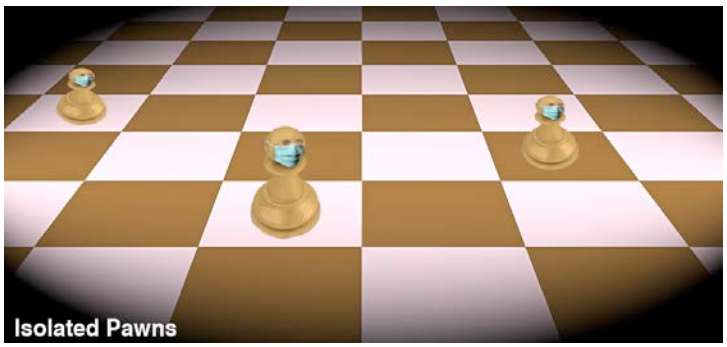
It's all laughable, especially from a chess perspective; so I've made some memes to poke fun at it. And I've thrown in some miscellaneous cartoons and jokes that I've been saving as well. Enjoy…

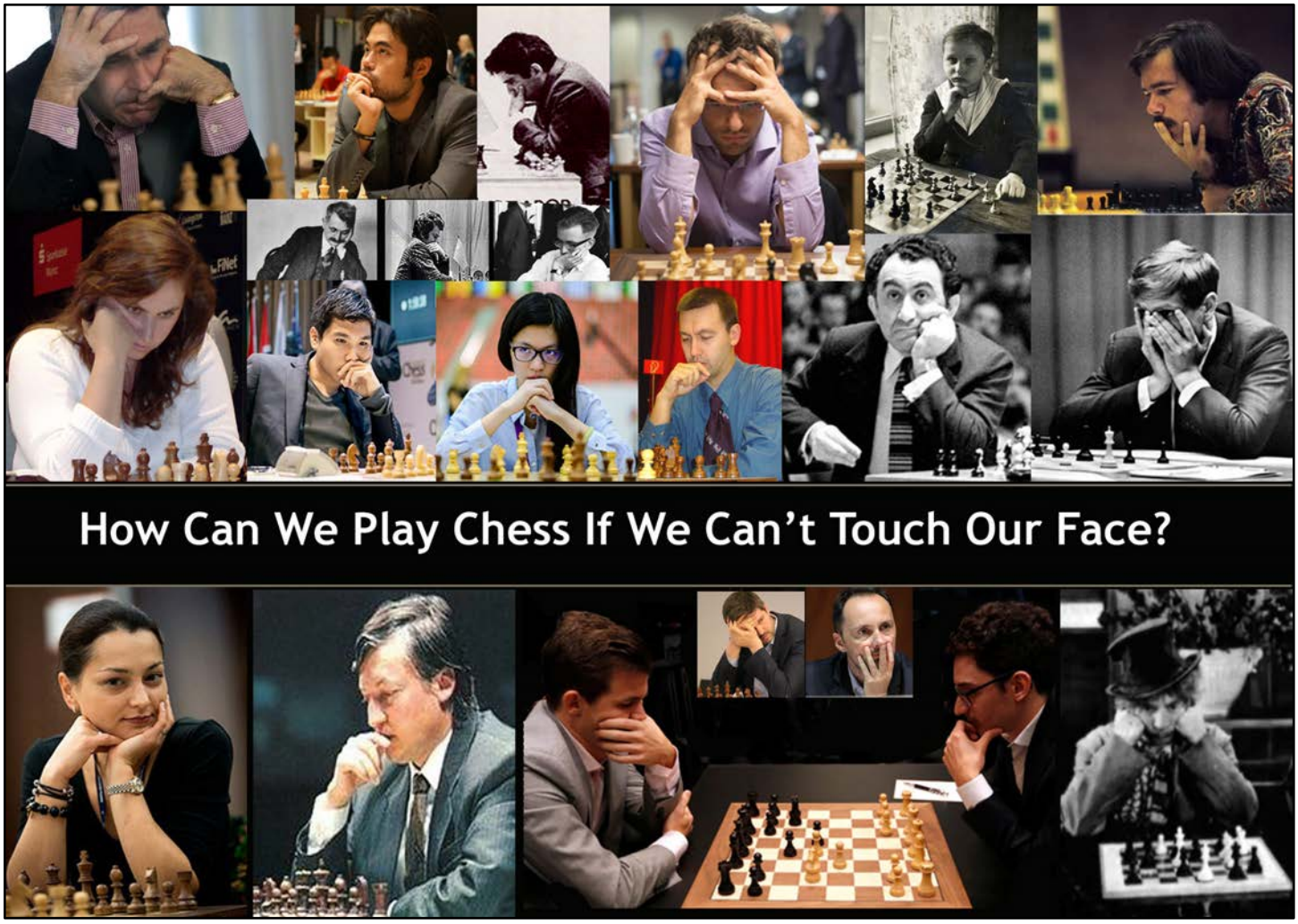






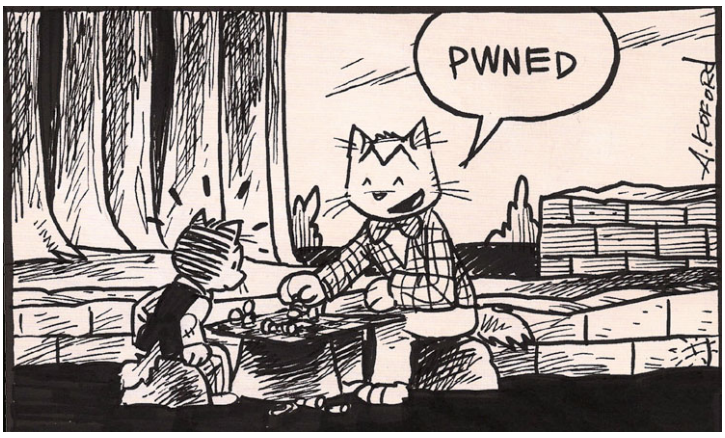
The late Bill Lange (Okie chessplayer) drew this cartoon many years ago, and I updated it for us like this:





I made the above collage of face-touching grandmasters partly as a puzzle – How many of them can you name? There is one player who is not a grandmaster. … Who is he? *Answers Page 13*.

"And now chess champion Nastikoff is employing one of his famous tactical blows !"



Roy Mendoza Sr.

San Antonio's Chess Trailblazer Gone But Not Forgotten

by Richard Garcia

Webmaster Jim Hollingsworth kindly submitted this article that will appear in the next issue of Texas Knights, the chess magazine for the TCA.
(You can check out this publication online here: https://texaschess.org/texas-knights/)
It shows how chess mentorship can affect young people, and will always be appreciated.

Roy Mendoza, Sr.

For a generation of scholastic chess players in San Antonio, Roy Mendoza Sr. ran the preeminent scholastic chess program from the late 1960's into the late 1980's.

As a newly minted 1960's-era educator, he began his teaching career at San Antonio's Horace Mann Middle School. On top of his teaching duties, he coached the school's chess team. Mr. Mendoza spent considerable time working with those kids, resulting in a team trophy at their very first tournament. Even more impressive, they were the only middle school kids participating in a field of high school players.

Early on Mr. Mendoza recognized a need for San Antonio's chess-playing kids to participate in an affordable, well run series of chess tournaments during the school year that would culminate with an annual city chess championship. Thus began his En Passant chess program, which he made available to all local schools. Champions were recognized at the elementary, middle school and high school divisions.

Tournaments were held bi-weekly and hosted at schools representing various San Antonio-area districts. Round 1 was played on Friday evening, then four more were played on Saturday. It was commonplace to have more than 300 kids gathered in a school cafeteria playing competitive chess. Pairings and tiebreaks were all done by hand. The entry fee was $2.00. In addition, players received a professionally made En Passant membership card and a rating which changed depending on their over- the-board play and the opportunity to play chess against some of the best scholastic players in the city.

After the final round, ribbons and trophies were presented to players at the top of the final standings and parents arrived to pick up their tired but happy kids.

For a number of years, Mr. Mendoza would open up a loan at the start of the scholastic chess season at a San Antonio based bank. He'd make a deposit from the entry fees regularly and at the end of the year would have just enough to pay off the loan needed to send the two top high school players with airfare and hotel to play in a chess tournament on the east coast.

As Mr. Mendoza moved up in his career, he always made sure he either founded or supported a chess club in the school where he was placed to work. There would be seven different schools along his journey as an educator. For a number of years, he held principal positions which included stints at the middle school and the high school levels.

His daughter recalled a memorable road trip

TOP 25

For MAY 2020

	Active Oklahoma Players			
	Player	This Month	Change	
1	Advait Patel	2537	0	
2	Jeffrey Haskel	2355	-11	
3	Howard Zhong	2307	0	
4	Bart Gibbons	2217	0	
5	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
6	Mark Hulsey	2199	0	
7	Ryan Amburgy	2133	0	
8	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2103	0	
9	Adonis Turner	2084	0	
10	Anthony Paolercio	2080	0	
11	Tom Patton	2077	0	
12	Veronika Zilajeva	2071	0	
13	Charles D Unruh	2063	0	
14	James Long	2053	0	
15	Michael Nugent	2042	0	
16	Charles M Unruh	2033	0	
17	Matt Dalthorp	2029	0	
18	David Luscomb	2026	0	
19	Chuck Johnson	2010	0	
20	Jeff Colbert	2008	0	
21	Logan Zachare	1984	0	
22	Joe Dean Veal	1961	0	
23	Stephen Gehly	1958	0	
24	Charles Woodall	1937	0	
25	Paul Hodgden	1935	0	

Player of the Month

TOMMY HAY

Tommy Hay came out of retirement to lead the Okie Online team to victory in RRSO XVIISS with his 2-0 match win! Congrats!

one summer break year where Roy packed up his wife and children in the family station wagon and headed to Philadelphia during the United States bicentennial celebration. They stopped along the way visiting historic places to learn more of our country's past. This trip afforded Mr. Mendoza the opportunity to play in a chess tournament, something he didn't have much time to do over the years. Thanks to the printed annual rating lists of the 1970's, we were able to find his 1972 year-end rating of 1700—a solid class B player.

Thousands of local kids between the late 1960's to the late 1980's were lucky to be part of his En Passant chess program.

In November of 2018, a group of area chess players honored Mr. Mendoza with a dinner at a local popular restaurant to recognize all he had given to local the local chess community. The occasion was marked with a plaque from the San Antonio Chess Club and a framed certificate of achievement from the United States Chess Federation.

Appreciate Dinner, November 2018

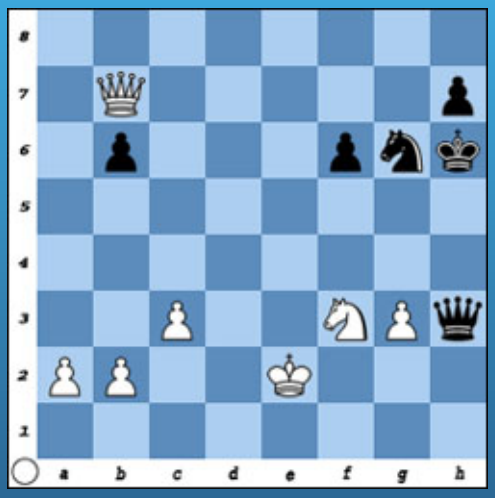
Roy Mendoza Sr. passed away March 5, 2020.

The Story Behind This Story:
About the Author: Richard Garcia

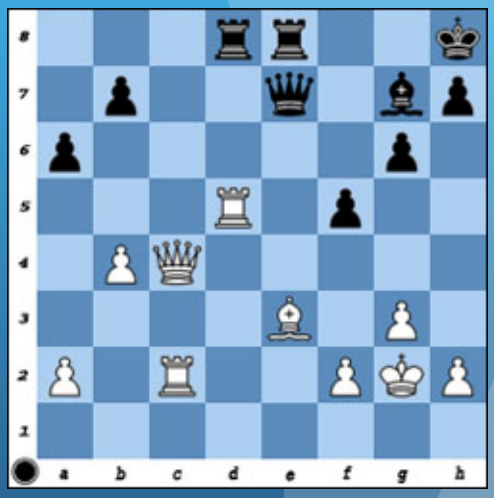
On January 2017, after more than three decades of inactivity, the author slowly has been in daily self- study to perhaps play the game once more. Sometime mid-2018, a post to the San Antonio Chess Facebook page asked what ever happened to Mr. Mendoza.

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page



White to move and win. (Easy)
Maroczy-Rubinstein 1908



Black to move and win. (Difficult)
Ding Liren – Nakamura, 2020

Garcia and Mendoza

No one had seen or heard from him were the responses. A question was posed if he'd ever been recognized for his past contributions to the local chess scene. No was the reply. It took nearly three months of contacting school district offices, Facebook pages and other dead ends before the author drew upon his career as a CPA. He was found through property tax records. A letter was mailed to his potential address with a return contact phone number. A photo was taken at a landmark restaurant mid-August of 2018 with the author and Mr. Mendoza meeting for lunch and a three hour conversation. Once San Antonio's chess community received the news he was found, a gathering to honor him was arranged.

When the author's youngest child was in third grade, she joined her elementary school's chess team. One of the parent volunteers ran the after school club and was looking for someone to organize and run a chess tournament for the kids to play in. A second parent in the discussion accepted those tournament director duties. This author's wife spoke up about how her husband knew all about chess tournaments. I remained tight lipped not wanting to volunteer. I was asked and a memory flickered in my brain of Mr. Mendoza's giving to the community. I helped run that tournament for two years until the initial tournament director moved away and continued to run the tournament for an additional eight years. It was eventually a semi-annual scholastic tournament for kids in the San Antonio and surrounding area for kindergarten, elementary, middle school and high school levels. Mr. Mendoza certainly would have been pleased.

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) 1. g5+ forces a forking combination that wins a second pawn and trades queens to an easily winning endgame: 1. … fxg5 2. Qxh7+! Kxh7 3. Nxg5+ Kg7 4. Nxh3 and wins.

(2) Nakamura spots a nifty way to pin and win white's rook on d5! …
1. … b5! 2. Qd3 (other queen moves don't help) 2. … Qb7!
The rook is pinned and twice attacked now, while only once defended.
If white protects it with the rook, black attacks it a third time with his other rook and wins it the next move.

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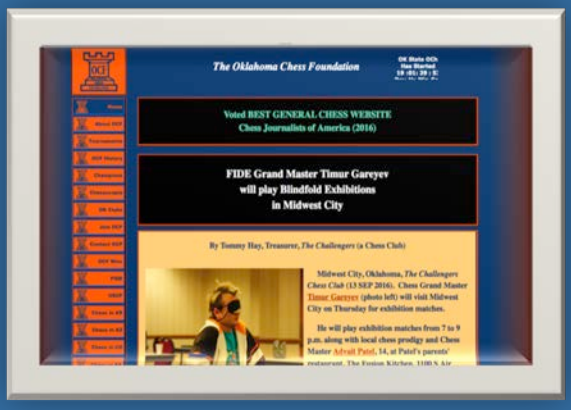
The Oklahoma Chess Foundation
Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)
FIDE Grand Master Timur Gareyev
will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
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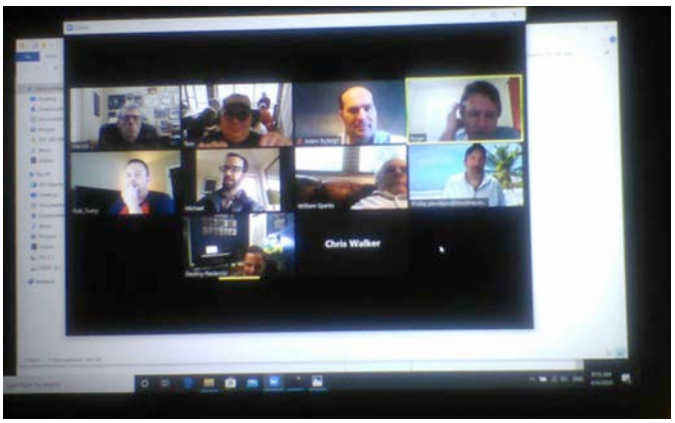
… and more

Are You Chess Clubbing Online?

The "Chess Fools of Tulsa" (one of Tulsa's main chess clubs) has been meeting online since April 4 during the economic shutdown and distancing period.

We have been using the popular program *ZOOM* to enable club members to chat on screen where they can not only see and hear each other, but can share their computer screens and thus allow the group to solve puzzles together, go over games, or watch online chess tournaments live, with GM commentary. We meet on Saturday mornings at 9:00am.



CFOT Online Club Meeting April 4, 2020

The Zoom program is free to most users. You only need one person who has a membership, which is $15 per month, to 'host' the meeting. Everyone else downloads an App automatically when they click on the invitation to the meeting, which is free and easy. Actually, you don't really even need to be a member, but there are benefits to it that make it worthwhile. If no one is a member there is a 45 minute limit on the meeting, for example. There are some other online meeting software platforms that can be used also, such as *SNYPE* and *GO-TO-MEETING*.

Online meetings are an excellent way to keep your local club's momentum going during the shutdown, and is fun.

The one thing you can't do with these programs is directly play chess with each other. For that, you can arrange to play your friends on online chess programs like chess.com, ICC, and the others; but that is a different experience of one vs one. The club meetings on ZOOM where everyone can chat is a social experience.

LiChess Recommended

Following the article in OCM last month about ways to play chess online, several local players told me that I should have mentioned *lichess.org,* and said LiChess is their favorite. It is a FREE online service, with no ads, yet fully-featured.

Josie Braddy (mother of Elizabeth) wrote with her positive review of lichess:
"Where lichess really shines, is … their "study" feature is an amazing tool that is similar to, but simpler than Chessbase. Elizabeth works with a coach online and they can work through a private study board that he shares with her via lichess and work on it live and then she gets to keep it for as long as she wants so that she can refer back to it. He also sends her puzzles this way as you can have as many "chapters" in a study as you like. … Her coach is a relatively young man who is a computer science major (which is why he's not taking on any more students at this time - or I would personally recommend him) and he far prefers lichess.
Oh! I almost forgot... lichess also has a much simpler way to challenge a friend to a game "from position" so that you can practice particular sections of a student's knowledge...a particular endgame, or a famous game position from the past.

Zilajeva, Victorija (1465)
Braddy, Elizabeth (1271) [D15]
OSCO Scholastic State Championship, 07.03.2020
[Notes by Tom Braunlich]

This was the key game in the Girl's division at the OSCO scholastic state championships. The winner would get to represent the state at the prestigious Ruth Haring National Girls Championship this Summer at the U.S. Open, and event Viktorija's older sister won just a couple years ago.

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 Bf5 5.Bf4 dxc4 6.e3 b5 7.a4 b4 8.Na2 e6 9.Bxc4 Bd6 10.Bg5

White wants to keep the bishops on the board, but this is an awkward way. Better: 10.Ne5 Nd5 11.Bg3=

10...0-0 11.0-0 h6 12.Bh4 Nbd7 13.Re1 Nb6

White was threatening e4, but perhaps a better way to deal with that is the unpinning move 13...Qc7= continuing development and controlling e4.

14.Bb3 Bh7 15.e4 g5 16.e5 gxh4 17.exd6 Qxd6 18.Nxh4 Kh8

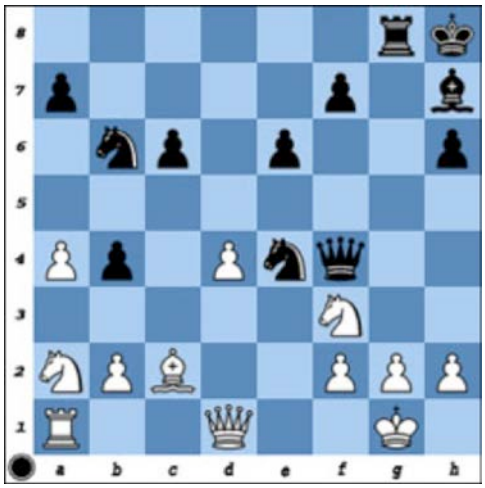
[18...Rfd8 19.Nf3 Be4 20.Bc2 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 Kg7 is about equal. *(21...Nbd5)*]

19.Re3 Rg8 20.Rg3 Ne4 21.Rxg8+ Rxg8 22.Bc2? Qf4 23.Nf3 Ng5?

Here Elizabeth misses a chance for a sweet combination.

(See Diagram).

Observing that White's queen is the sole protector of the N on f3 and the B on c2,



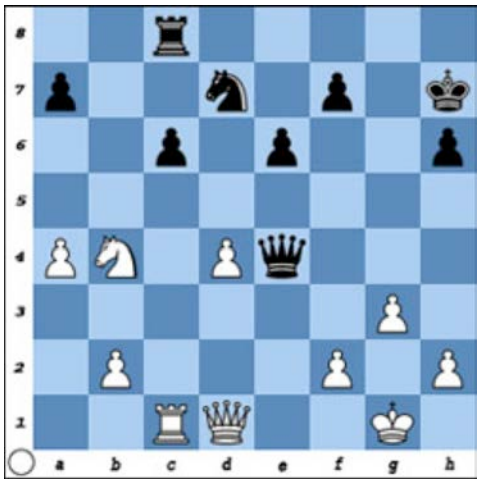
Black could have overloaded her with the shot: 23...Nc3! 24.bxc3 Bxc2 25.Qxc2 Qxf3.

Then white would have to play 26.g3 to stop mate, when ...Nd5 (Threatening ...Nf4!) leads to a winning position for black. White would have to play 27.Qd1, but it allows black to simply trade down into a winning endgame: 27...Qxd1+ 28.Rxd1 b3!

24.Nxg5 Qxg5 25.g3 Qg4 26.Bxh7 Kxh7 27.Nxb4

Snagging a pawn. White is nearly winning now.

27...Qe4 28.Rc1 Rc8 29.a5 Nd7



30.Qc2

Viktorija logically forces the trade of queens. The ending should be winning ... but knight endings are notoriously tricky, especially when both sides have a lot of weak pawns like here.

30...Qxc2 31.Rxc2 Nb8

A sad necessity. Elizabeth hopes to later free this knight by first bringing the king over...

32.f4 Kg6 33.Kf2 h5?!

[33...Kf6 34.Kf3 Ke7 35.Kg4 *(35.Ke4 Kd6)* 35...Rg8+ 36.Kh5 Kf6!? with counterplay against white's sidelined king. White is still winning but that would have been a good try for black.]

34.Ke3 Kf6 35.Rc5 Kg6 36.Ke4 f5+ (This is a bluff!) 37.Ke3

[White can continue forward to sac the exchange and win: 37.Ke5 Nd7+ 38.Kd6 Nxc5 39.dxc5 Kf6 40.Nxc6 and wins.]

37...Kf6 38.d5 exd5 39.Nxd5+ Ke6 40.Nb4 Rc7 41.Re5+ Kf6 42.Rc5 Ke6 43.b3 Rc8 44.h3 Rc7 45.Nd5 Rc8 46.Nb4 Rc7 47.Re5+

Victoria has such a pleasant bind on the c-file she is reluctant to give it up; but it cannot be increased and it is better to redeploy her N to attack black's other weaknesses. So, the f5 pawn is very weak and the idea of bring the N to d4 to attack it makes sense. Therefore: 47.Nc2 is strong. 47...Rb7 *(47...Nd7 48.Nd4+ Kd6 49.Rxf5)* 48.b4 Kf6 49.Nd4 Rxb4 50.Rxf5+ Kg6 51.Rg5+ Kh6 52.Nf5+ Kh7 53.Rxh5+ etc.

47...Kf6 48.Kd4 Nd7 49.Rc5

In some time pressure caused by the fast scholastic time controls, and after a long day, Victorija sees the twin threats of ...Nxe5 and ...c5+ and decides she must sac the exchange. But it blunders the game away because there was a tactical way out: 49.Na6! Rb7 50.Re3 Rb5 51.b4 and white is safe and the ending should still be winning.

49...Nxc5 50.Kxc5 Ke6?

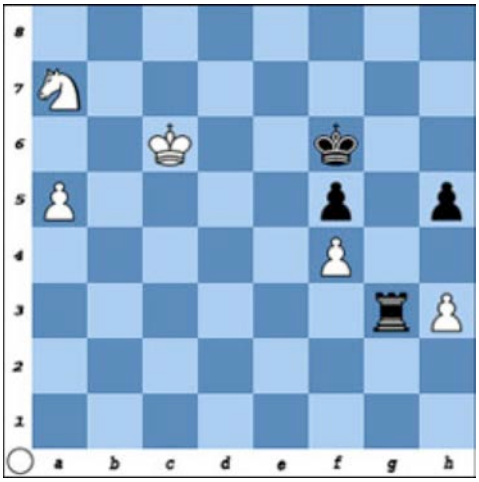
A significant loss of time. 50...Rg7! Rooks must be activated! 51.Nxc6 Rxg3 52.Nxa7 Rxh3 53.b4 Black's passed pawn will be much faster.

51.Nc2 Kf6 52.b4 Rc8 53.Nd4 Rg8 54.Ne2 Re8 55.Nd4 Rb8?!

[55...Rg8 56.Ne2 Re8 was the most logical end; but a draw wasn't acceptable to both players, and now a time scramble ensues...;

Note that if 55...Re3 56.Nxc6 Rxg3 57.Nxa7 Rxh3 58.b5 White would be a couple tempi ahead of the previous line given on move 50, and might even be better here.]

56.Kxc6 Rxb4 57.Nb5 Rb3 58.Nxa7 Rxg3



59.Nb5 Rxh3 60.a6 Rh2 61.Nd4 Ra2 62.Kb7 h4 63.a7 h3 64.a8Q?

Clearly a time trouble blunder, but after 64.Nf3 Kg6! still surprisingly wins for black! After the further moves 65.a8Q Rxa8 66.Kxa8 Kh5 Black takes advantage of the distant white king and the fact that knights are notoriously bad at dealing with rook pawns. If the two f-pawns were not on the board, it would be a draw. But here white can't use the key g4 square. For example: 67.Nh2 Kh4 68.Nf1 Kg4 69.Kb7 Kxf4 70.Kc6 Kf3 71.Kd5 Kf2 72.Nh2 Kg2 and because white can't play N-g4, she loses!

64...Rxa8 65.Kxa8 h2 66.Kb7 h1Q+ 67.Kb6 Qg1 68.Kc5 Qc1+ 69.Kd5 Qxf4 70.Kc4 Ke5 71.Kc3 Qxd4+ 0-1

A nice hard-fought game that reflects credit upon both players. It was a tragedy for Viktorija, who missed wins in the ending, and allowed Elizabeth to 'pull a rabbit out of the hat' (as Josie Braddy said). But Viktorija also dodged a bullet in the middlegame, so they both had their chances. That's chess.

Red River ONLINE Shoot Out Victory over Texas

Since RRSO XVIII was cancelled last month, organizer Jim Hollingsworth decided to do an online version, to keep the streak going, titled RRSO XVIIISS ('SS' is Roman numerals for ½. Who knew?) Here is Jim's blow-by-blow report:

In RRSO XVIIISS, Texas drew first blood on Board 2 to briefly lead 1-0. The Okies knotted things up at 1-1 and managed a 5½ to 3½ halftime lead. Jimmy Nazario, a Lawton Okie, scored the decisive point for a 9½ to 7½ margin. The final score was 10½ to 7½ in favor of Oklahoma.

Four Okies achieved "ACE" honors with 2-0 sweeps of their opponents: Roy Cram of Tishmingo, Jimmy Nazario of Lawton, Tommy Hay of the Challengers Chess Club in Oklahoma City, and Team Captain Elizabeth Braddy of Oklahoma City. Texas had two aces: OCF Webmaster Jim Hollingsworth and fast-rising Arlington chess star Carter Hall.

The genesis of RRSO XVIIISS began on March 17th when a saddened RRSO Chief Organizer wrote: "...., by whatever authority (and responsibility) I possess, implied or otherwise, as RRSO co-Founder and Chief Organizer, I hereby declare RRSO XVIII a 0-0 tie with Oklahoma retaining the title, Frank Kim Berry Trophy, and bragging rights for another year."

Players on both sides were determined not to allow Grand Master Coronovrus Covid-19 to win, especially after he was declared the Oklahoma Chess Monthly's "Player of the Month." The idea of a "Revenge" match was born. Recruiting started on April 3rd. "SS" (Roman numerals meaning one-half) was accomplished on Saturday, April 18th, the same day as the original RRSO XVIII.

The team match was hosted by Internet Chess Club (ICC). Texas Armed Forces Chess, a subordinate element of Bedford's American Legion Post 379, covered all rating costs. The time control was Game/15;+5 and the online event was dual-rated as ICC standard and US Chess Online Quick. The REAL final score is:

Most fanatical chess players in Oklahoma and Texas 18.

GM Coronovirus Covid-19 ..... ZERO.

RRSO XVIIISS & ICC rapid

Online Match Oklahoma v. Texas

Internet Chess Club standard & US Chess quick rated

Time Control: G/15;+5

Team Captains: Elizabeth Riley Braddy (OK) & Sheryl Lynn Mc Broom (TX)

Jim Hollingsworth, Chief Organizer & Tournament Director

Oklahoma 10.5 — 7.5 Texas

Rating	Player (OK)	Score	Rd1	Rd2	Bd	Rd1	Rd2	Score	Player (TX)	Rating
1668	JUDSON TEMPLE	0.5	0.5	0.0	01	0.5	1.0	1.5	MIKE DONOVAN	1643
1776	MIKE TUBBS	0.0	0.0	0.0	02	1.0	1.0	2.0	JIM HOLLINGSWORTH	1600
1475	SHANE STONEHOCKER	1.0	0.0	1.0	03	1.0	0.0	1.0	LEON POWERS	1572
0000	ROY CRAM	2.0	1.0	1.0	04	0.0	0.0	0.0	CARMEN CHAIREZ	1567
1552	LEON TOLIVER	0.0	0.0	0.0	05	1.0	1.0	2.0	CARTER HALL	1560
1068	ANNA BOEVERS	1.0	1.0	0.0	06	0.0	1.0	1.0	DOUG SCHWETKE	1544
1263	JIMMY NAZARIO	2.0	1.0	1.0	07	0.0	0.0	0.0	JOHN DE VRIES	1500
1209	TOMMY HAY	2.0	1.0	1.0	08	0.0	0.0	0.0	BRANDON FLORES	1454
1165	ELIZABETH BRADDY	2.0	1.0	1.0	09	0.0	0.0	0.0	SHERYL MC BROOM	1350

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

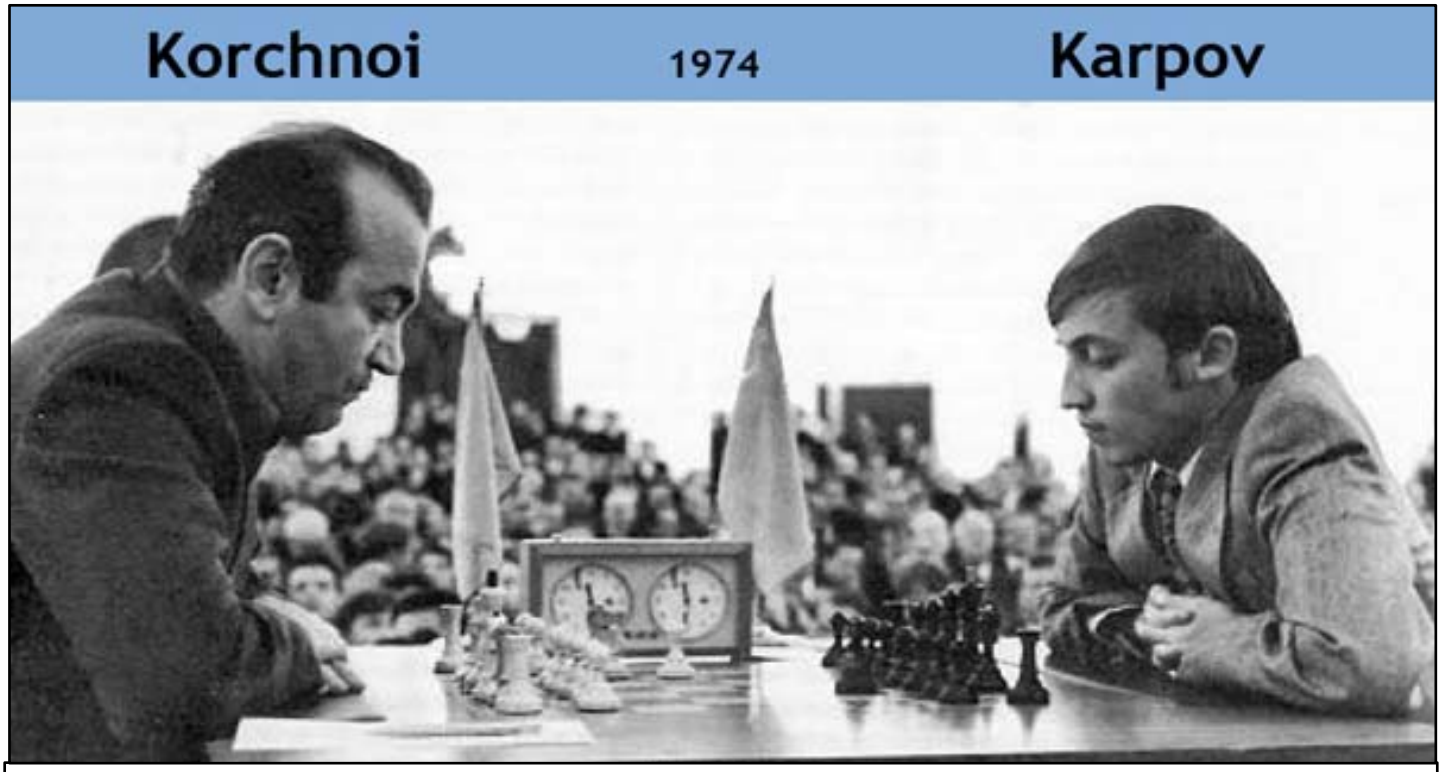
For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

May 2 Missouri State University ONLINE Open Online

Joplin MO organizer Martin Stahl is hosting a USCF-rated online tournament on chess.com for players in this area on May 2, starting at 11:00am. 5-Rounds, Time Control: Game 20,+5

Registration: To register for the event, you must contact Martin Stahl for more information (martin.stahl@gmail.com) and to provide your Chess.com username and join the following club: https://www.chess.com/club/four-states-chess-events

Face-Touching Grandmasters – Listed from Left to Right:
Ivanchuk, Nakamura, Kasparov, Aronian, Reshevsky, Browne
Judit Polgar, Em. Lasker, Spassky, Larsen, Wesley So, Hou Yifan, Kamsky, Petrosian, Fischer
Kosteniuk, Karpov, Carlsen, Svidler, Topalov, Caruana, and finally … Harpo Marx



YOUR COVID-19 CHESS HOMEWORK FOR MAY:

Play over all the games of the Karpov-Korchnoi 1974 match,
Annotated online by former world champion Mikhail Botvinnik.
See them at this link: https://bit.ly/2VOn35d

By IM John Donaldson

REVIEW: The Hyper-Accelerated Dragon

Canadian IM Raja Panjwani's *The Hyper Accelerated Dragon* (2017, 226 pages, paperback, figurine algebraic List price 29 Euro = $33) fills a much-needed gap in the chess literature as the standard references on this opening, *The Sicilian Accelerated Dragon* by Peter Heine Nielsen and Carsten Hansen and *Accelerated Dragons* by your reviewer and Jeremy Silman, are both over twenty years old. Even *Starting Out: The Accelerated Dragon* by Andrew Greet has been around for over a decade.

The Accelerated Dragon has never been one of the most popular lines in the Sicilian and consequently it has not been as thoroughly analyzed as the Najdorf or regular Dragon, but transpositional possibilities make it more popular than one might think. Grandmasters arrive at the Maróczy Bind more frequently from the English or 1.Nf3 than 1.e4 while the opening sequence 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 is a popular way for White to try to dodge the Sveshnikov, albeit at the cost of 3…g6, offering an Accelerated Dragon but with White's c pawn no longer free to advance.

As Panjwani's title implies, his preferred move order is 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 (the Hyper-Accelerated Dragon) and not the traditional move order 2…Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6. This is not to meet 3.d4 with 3…Bg7 as 4.dxc5 Qa5+ 5.c3 Qxc5 as 6.Na3! is no fun for Black. Rather, his idea is that after 3…cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 Black has sidestepped the Rossolimo (2…Nc6 3.Bb5) which the author feels is a good tradeoff for Black, judging 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4, 3.c3, 3.Bc4 and 3.h4 to be less of a problem.

Panjwani's analysis of 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 and 3.c3 are representative of what makes this a great book. The analysis is first rate with many original ideas and novelties. The author does a fine job of interspersing computer analysis with human interpretation, offering valuable advice regarding what positions are practical for humans to play and don't require machine like precision.

The author has clearly made a decision to emphasize what he feels is most important and weighted his coverage accordingly, but readers who might face 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bc4 or 3.h4 will need to look elsewhere for coverage of these lines. This is not the only place in this book where material you might expect to find is missing.

After 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 White has three major attempts to stop Black from playing …d5 in one go, an idea at the strategic heart of the Accelerated Dragon. They are 5.c4 (the Maroczy Bind), 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 (7.Be2 d5! is but one of many TNs over turning established theory to be found in this book – Panjwani also offers extensive coverage of 7…0-0 8.Nb3 d6) and 7.Nxc6. The latter is not as popular as the other two treatments, but definitely deserving of respect (Kasparov has played it with both colors). Here it receives only one small paragraph on 7…bxc6 8.e5 Ng8, giving analysis of 9.f4 but not the more popular 9.Bd4.

The heart of this book centers on 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Bc4 and the Maroczy Bind (5.c4), with Panjwani offering two choices – one solid and one adventurous – to counter the two variations.

Against 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Bc4 the solid choice he recommends is the old main line 7…Qa5 which forces White to castle short, but sometimes lands Black in a poor version of the Classical Dragon after

Nb3 and …Qc7. Panjwani's solution to this is pretty shocking – retreating the queen directly to d8 after it is attacked. This leaves White a tempo ahead in many traditional lines, but the author feels the Classical is so innocuous it doesn't matter. The …Qd8 retreat is not unknown; the great Accelerated Dragon expert Vladimir Malakhov having tried it, but it does look a little strange at first glance.

Panjwani's other suggestion against 7.Bc4 is even more original. He advocates a Dragon-Taimanov hybrid system he has built from the ground up after 7…0-0 8.Bb3 a6.

Black's idea is to play a quick …b5, …Bb7, …Qc7 and …Na5 with the Black d-pawn remaining on its original square to save an important tempo - essential as analogous lines in the Dragon where Black is already committed to …d6 don't enjoy a great reputation. The Polish Grandmaster Tomasz Markowski use to play like this via 8…Qc7 and enjoyed success with it before losing an important game to Vassily Ivanchuk. This system is not well analyzed and Panjwani gives pages and pages of thought-provoking analysis.

Systems with 7.Bc4 don't explain why there are not more Accelerated Dragon players. No, the reason why the Accelerated is not seen more often is 5.c4. The Maróczy Bind might not be a knockout blow, but it's a hard system to generate winning chances against, although Panjwani tries.

He recommends two systems against the Bind and neither is the popular line with an early …Nxd4 forcing White to recapture with the queen. Instead his choices start with 5…Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 and now he branches out. His first recommendation is 7…Ng4 and after 8.Qxg4 Nxd4 9.Qd1 e5 when White's traditionally most challenging course has been 10.Nb5.

Here Panjwani has discovered the great novelty 10…d6! which he has used to win two nice games.

His analysis of this line looks so convincing that at first, I thought he had done the impossible – discovered a sound line against the Maróczy offering Black real winning chances. Unfortunately, such dreams are too good to be true. If White adopts a quieter treatment, as pointed out by John Shaw in the third and final volume of his magnificent 1.e4 opening repertoire series for Quality Chess, I don't see much Black can do to create a double-edged position after 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 d6 12.Rc1 Be6 13.Qd2 Rc8 14.b3 a6 15.Rfd1 (instead of 15.f3 or 15.Ne2 as given by Panjwani). 15…Qd7. The line is certainly playable for Black, but dynamic it is not.

Panjwani finishes his book with good bonus chapters on the Smith-Morra and 2.c3.

In summary this is a great book. Anyone rated above 2000, and particularly above 2200 will want to have this book with the caveat that it will need to be supplemented with material for lines that are either not covered or only minimally so - 3.Bc4, 3.h4 and 7.Nxc6.